FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FY012054Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1521 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Sep (NA)--The Argentine ambassador to Washington, Jorge Aja Espil, said here today that even though "the U.S. Government makes a whole philosophy out of national interest and U.S. legislation, even in human rights," its leaders cannot "sufficiently judge the Argentine national interest in this process of struggle against terrorist action, a form of subversion which unfortunately we have all had to experience in the last few years."

Aja Espil denied that there are any ideological differences between the two countries and said that the differences are a "temporary situation" because in Argentina "there is a problem of national security which, after a period of crisis very well known by every Argentine, is being overcome to bring the country back to normal." He said: "This principle, this matter of national security, has not been sufficiently understood by the U.S. Government. I believe this is where the problem lies."

The diplomat made these remarks on the "Belgrano show," a program broadcast by LR3 Radio Belgrano every morning.

He said during the interview that the reason for his visit to Buenos Aires is "to prepare for the meetings of the mixed commissions which are going to be held at the end of September in Washington"--meetings which are "very important to Argentina because they will deal with matters related to our foreign trade." He recalled that Argentina has an unfavorable balance in its trade with the United States and that this is one of the main subjects he has been discussing at the Foreign Ministry, besides the current relations between the two countries. He said that this situation should be considered "within the overall framework of bilateral policies and not in isolation." He then compared the current situation with a "telephone conversation obstructed by some interference but not interrupted."

In another part of the interview Aja Espil said that "in international relations there are many who see the trees and a few who see the forest" and then emphasized that the "permanent interests between Argentina and the United States" are the important factors. He also explained that "Argentina is one of the good U.S. clients" and revealed that a recent U.S. Commerce Department report mentioned Argentina as one of the countries of "greater interest for the United States."

Aja Espil said: "The U.S. Government itself has labeled Argentina a secure country--that is, a reliable country in which U.S. bankers now have confidence." He explained: "U.S. businessmen themselves are the most confused regarding certain reactions, sometimes from a sector of Congress or the State Department. It is they who can least understand why when a U.S. enterprise wants to sell to Argentina, it suddenly finds itself obstructed by an official U.S. organization."

Aja Espil considers Patricia Derian, the State Department under secretary for human rights, part of the interference in his example of the telephone conversation in bilateral relations. He said: "In this contect, I believe Patricia Derian has presented a philosophy without accepting reality and is not able to distinguish an isolated situation within overall policy."

Asked if this process can be reversed, Aja Espil answered with an example taken from U.S. President Carter's recent position regarding some tobacco producers who asked for subsidies for their industry.

The subsidy request, in view of a virulent campaign against tobacco consumption carried out by the government on the national level, seemed a contradiction, but Carter said that "there was no contradiction" in granting them the subsidy they requested.

Without making a direct reference, Aja Espil seemed to relate the Argentine Government situation to the circumstances mentioned regarding the U.S. tobacco producers.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES MEMORANDUM ON BEAGLE DISPUTE

PY050317Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0117 GMT 5 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Sep (TELAM)--Argentina considers as interference in the sovereign powers of a state the attitude assumed by the court of arbitration on the Beagle Channel which, in its note of last 10 July, stated that any unilateral attempt at reversing, changing or modifying the existing situation would mean a violation of its decision.

This statement is included in a document sent today by San Martin Palace to the Governments of Great Britain and Chile and released tonight with the expressed notation that this is not a new development, but just an exposition of our country's position regarding the notes sent by the court on 15 March and 8 August to the two parties, Argentina and Chile.

In the last paragraph of today's memorandum, our country states that notes such as the one sent by the former president of the court of arbitration, Sir Gerald Fitsmaurice, are not only inappropriate but also untimely since they are not in line with the sovereign will of the two states expressed in an international treaty which is now being fully implemented.

The Argentine reply does not involve either Great Britain or Chile, but the national government wants to state its position in view of the court's insistence on passing judgment on possible actions by a state, actions which it regards beforehand as violations of a decision and in view of the fact that the court considers illegitimate any subsequent action which may not be in keeping with the situation it has arbitrarily outlined in its note.

The memorandum also refers to the Argentine declaration stating that the arbitration is null because it exceeds the powers of the court and because of other serious deficiencies which disqualify it as a jurisdictional action, noting that the Argentine attitude is completely in line with international law and is based on a package of international precedents.

In this respect, the memorandum emphasizes the criterion stated by Chilean Judge Alejandro Alvarez in the opinion he expressed regarding decisions of the UN Administrative Court at the request of the International Court of Justice.

At that time Alvarez said that a party in a conflict can refuse to comply with a decision if it has serious defects, particularly if the decision has gone beyond the court's jurisdiction. According to the Chilean judge, this procedure is a permanent arbitration practice.

The memorandum states that the arbitration procedure established in the 1971 commitment ended with the Argentine Government declaration of 25 January 1978 which puts an end of the jurisdiction of the arbiter and the court created by that international instrument-document. This position was agreed to in the signing of the Puerto Montt Act.

The document presents some considerations regarding contradictions made by Fitzmaurice, president of the arbitration court, including the inadmissible error by a jurist, who has been a member and has presided over international courts, of limiting recourses to only those which could be used to complement, annul or modify legal decisions and of ignoring the institution of nullity which exists in every juridical procedure.

It rejects the accusation that by not cooperating and by rejecting the decision as null, the Argentine Government is not fulfilling its obligation under a valid sentence. The document states that this accusation involves judging the behavior of a sovereign state, which is inadmissible and particularly harmful to its dignity.

With regard to the statement that all the islands,islets, rocks, sandbanks and shallows and other formations located on the south (Chilean) side of the red line shown on the map of the borderline are de facto in Chilean possession, Argentina states that this is erroneous, illegal and arbitrary.

In this regard, Argentina believes that this statement attempted to give legal effects to situations which in fact do not exist with the purpose of justifying the decision stated later by the arbitral court note that a decision had been reached despite the opposition expressed and justified by one of the parties in the controversy.

In conclusion, the memorandum states among other concepts that the signing of the Puerto Montt Act on 20 February 1978 by the Argentine and Chilean presidents and its immediate enforcement indicate beyond any later speculation the formal recognition by the two states that there is a pending border demarcation in the southern area and that the bilateral negotiations instituted by this act are the way to solve it.

VIDELA REMARKS ON CIVILIAN RULE, ISABEL PERON

PY0121144Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1721 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Las Palmas, Canary Islands (TELAM-EFE)--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla stated here today that power will be returned to civilians at the right time. President Videla made a stopover in Las Palmas during his trip to Rome where he will attend the inauguration of Pope John Paul I.

Videla reasserted that the armed forces have intended to turn over the government to the civilians, but at the right time when the people acquire sufficient maturity to prevent the chaos which prevailed until very recently. Videla added that public order and security is normal "even though isolated acts of violence may take place as in any other area of the world."

With regard to former President Isabel Peron's future, Videla stated that the decision is up to the court, but it is well known that Isabel Peron has a few pending charges and must serve the sentences in full. He did not deny the fact that there are options such as pardon, although he termed the latter a mere hypothetical possibility.

BANZER SAID TO REJECT AMBASSADORIAL POST

PY011415Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] La Paz--According to sources close to former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer Suarez, he has rejected an alleged official offer to be Bolivian ambassador in Argentina. Press reports stated that Banzer, who was ousted on 21 July, had accepted this offer made by his successor, Gen Juan Pereda.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Ricardo Anaya reported, however, that he knew nothing about this alleged diplomatic proposal.

Report of Appointment Denied

PY011451Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Ricardo Anaya yesterday said that because of the excellent Peruvian-Bolivian relations it would be worthwhile for the presidents of the two countries to meet personally and exchange ideas and plans concerning what they can do jointly.

Giving a press conference at Jorge Chavez International Airport, the foreign minister spoke about Bolivia's landlocked situation, stating that evaluations are being made regarding previous negotiations to solve this old and distressing problem. He said that a date for the new Bolivian general elections has not yet been fixed. He also denied the report that former President Hugo Banzer is going to be named ambassador to Argentina. The Bolivian foreign minister stopped in Lima on his way to the Vatican to represent the Bolivian president at the inauguration of Pope John Paul I.

Offer of Candidacy Disclosed

PY021836Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT 2 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 2 Sep (AFP)--A communique released today by the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] revealed that Bolivian President Juan Pereda has offered former President Hugo Banzer the official candidacy in the 1980 general elections.

According to the FSB generals Pereda and Banzer had a secret meeting 2 weeks ago in the latter's home, during which the present president offered Banzer the official candidacy in the next elections.

The communique does not say whether Banzer accepted.

SILES ZUAZO PROMISES DIALOG WITH PEREDA

PY011417Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] will nominate Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas as its presidential candidate, according to a statement made in Caracas by former President Hernan Siles Zuazo. The report to the La Paz newspaper ULTIMA HORA from (Fredy Cordoba Claure), its correspondent in Caracas, says that Siles Zuazo stated that he will return to La Paz for a dialog with President Juan Pereda.

The former president admitted that there is peace and freedom under the present government, adding that there is a very clear difference between Pereda and Banzer.

He said he believed that Bolivia has always been characterized by lack of dialog among the political parties, since their positions have been irreconcilable and their interests diametrically opposed. He remarked that he will dialog with President Pereda if the dialog is proposed on concrete bases, that is, a call to impartial and free elections.

This is the most important part of the report sent by wire from Caracas by (Fredy Cordoba Claure), correspondent of the La Paz evening paper ULTIMA HORA.

SILES ZUAZO CRITICIZED FOR FOREIGN DEPENDENCY

PY0120055Y Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 1 Sep 78 p 21 PY

[Paid advertisement, entitled "Bolivia and Foreign Intervention," published by the Bolivian Embassy in Asuncion, dated 24 August 1978]

[Text] In accordance with the principle of nonintervention, the Bolivian people are against all kinds of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of any country. The statements made by Hernan Siles Zuazo a few days ago have therefore called forth strong criticism from all classes of Bolivian society, because that Bolivian politician has falsified facts, threatened insurrection, expressed gratitude to certain foreign governments for their "cooperation" with him, and even confessed that "there has been solidarity" on the part of international social democracy." In his desire to return to power Siles Zuazo continues to desperately ask for foreign help.

It is appropriate to recall that during his presidency in Bolivia, Siles Zuazo did not exactly put his power at the service of Bolivian independence, sovereignty and democracy, because the stamp of his government was one of total dependence on foreign interests and, in domestic affairs, he became notorious for the most brazen electoral fraud and the use of violence against the people and popular and labor organizations, which he corrupted and divided. Another characteristic of his government was political crime.

As a warning to the free countries in Latin America it should be emphasized that the Bolivian electoral process which ended on 9 July 1978 was tinged with blatant and strong foreign interference which injured the sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Bolivian people. Large sums of money, coming from abroad, were used to finance the campaign of Siles Zuazo, who also had the support of foreign "observers" who shamelessly interfered in an election which was strictly the concern of the Bolivians. The so-called Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] bribed notaries and other electoral officials, committed fraud, used coercion, was guilty of various forms of violence, and distorted facts and figures in the electoral counts.

An impartial assessment of the present Bolivian Government, which has been in power for little more than 2 months, shows, however, that it has given great advantages to all the Bolivian people. Democracy has been guaranteed, as newsmen of all nationalities can easily verify. The present Bolivian Government has repealed all antipopular laws and decrees, social order and peace are being maintained. Popular participation is effective and will gradually become broader. There are no political prisoners or detainees. The sovereignty, respectability and self-determination of the country are now obvious realities and, above all, honesty in the management of public affairs is the invariable norm of Gen Juan Pereda's government, and will continue to be in the future.

SOCIALIST PARTY HOLDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PY041810 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The national conference of the Bolivian Socialist Party [PSB] analyzed the situation of the country and the role to be played within the Popular Democratic Unity Front [FUDP] in a session held yesterday with the participation of representatives from all sections of the country. According to information obtained, there is a strong faction within the party which does not want to continue within the FUDP due to the participation of the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party. Spokesmen of the PSB said that in the next few hours the media will be duly informed of the conference results.

'CHATO' PEREDA ARRESTED AFTER ARMED ROBBERY

PY311405Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpts] Osvaldo Peredo, Alias "El Chato," [leader of the Teoponte guerrilla outbreak in 1970 and one of the present leaders of the Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party, PRTB] was detained last night after an armed robbery he committed at about 2000 at the (Ferrari-Getsi) branch office located at 450 Santa Cruz street. At the same time plainclothesmen arrested (Juan Alexander Fernandez), a student in his third year at the Faculty of Medicine in La Paz, and (Carlos Nunez del Prado), who recently arrived in the country from Sweden, where he had been exiled on 26 February this year by the Chilean Government, according to a report given to Radio Panamericana. Police Commander Ovidio Aparicio said that the attack was committed by four persons, one of whom managed to escape without trace.

At a press conference last night the police chief reported that the incident took place at 2000, when the four individuals, armed with a .45-cal pistol and two .38-cal revolvers, entered the (Ferrari-Getsi) branch office on Santa Cruz street, owned by (Luis Mensala), where they took close to 200,000 Bolivian pesos, transistor radios and a calculating machine. After the robbery they fled to the Plaza Alonso de Mendoza, where three of them were captured by plainclothesmen and personnel of the Churubamba police station.

The bag with the money was found under a car, probably thrown away there by the robbers during their flight. (Mensala) counted the money after the press conference and said that nearly 120,000 pesos were recovered out of the 200,000 stolen from the cash register. The prisoners were shown to the press dressed in police uniforms. Their faces had obviously been beaten. Police officers announced that the three men would immediately be handed over to the regular courts for trial.

Recurrence of Insurgency Denied

PY012111Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 1 Sep (TELAM-DPA)--The Bolivian Government flatly denied the appearance of urban guerrilla warfare and called the attack on the branch of a cookie factory in which Chato Peredo, former leader of Bolivian guerrilla participated, a common crime, not a political one. Interior Minister Faustino Rico Toro stated that those involved in the attack will be treated as common criminals because of the features of the crime. The state television was quick to describe the deed as the beginning of urban guerrilla warfare. This was categorically denied by Rico Toro.

ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING CANDIDACY OF BENTES MONTEIRO

Courtesy Call on Medici

FY010305Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Aug 78 p 1 FY

[Text] Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro, the presidential candidate of the Brazilian Democratic Movement, met for 30 minutes with former President Medici in Rio de Janeiro last night. Caught by surprise by newsmen on leaving Medici's house, Bentes Monteiro said that he had just paid "a courtesy call" on the former president. A few moments earlier, the MDB's electoral campaign office announced that engineer Roberto Medici, a son of the former president, has decided to support Bentes Monteiro's candidacy.

Meanwhile, Luis Inacio da Silva, president of the Sao Bernardo Union of Metallurgical Workers, stated in Brazilia that if Bentes Monteiro supports the "letter of principles" prepared at the meeting of the national confederation of industrial workers, he will have the support of the Brazilian workers. Da Silva also warned that he will conduct a campaign against those congressmen who may vote in favor of the proposal on political reforms and of the [illegible] ree-law on strikes issued by Geisel.

Generals to Oppose Succession

FY020323Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Sep 78 p 5 FY

[Text] Two facts which are closely related with the presidential succession were revealed today by army generals. At least three members of the high command have told their colleagues that if Gen Euler Bentes wins in the 15 October elections, they will oppose his installation on the grounds that he is surrounded by elements who are politically linked with the left-wing and who advocate leftist ideas. They also contend that Ben Belfort Bethlem has used his power of persuasion to discourage remarks which are not in line with his own thinking on the presidential success and on military unity--that is, only remarks following the pattern of those made in recent days, including an editorial of the Voice of Brazil, should be made.

Military circles in Brasilia attached high significance yesterday to the meeting between Generals Medici and Bentes Monteiro. It is believed that the possible neutrality of Medici will be favorable for the MDB candidate and could be instrumental in countering the opposition elicited by his candidacy in sectors of the high command.

The report was denied that Gen Dilermando Gomes Monteiro, commander of the 2d Army, will leave office before November when he is supposed to go into the reserves. It was confirmed, however, that he will be appointed as justice of the superior military court replacing Gen Augusto Fragoso.

Army Officer Disciplined

FY010302Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 1 Sep 78 FY

[Text] Recife, Brazil, 31 Aug (AFP)--Lt Col Tarcisio Nunes Ferreira was disciplined here today with 30 days arrest for having made a statement of a political nature. The officer, who is in charge of the Military Drafting Office of the 7th Military Region, was disciplined by the commanders of the 4th Army Command and of the 7th Military Region. Colonel Ferreira, who was disciplined on two previous occasions because he criticized the country's current political regime, favors the nomination of Euler Bentes Monteiro for the presidency of the country by the only legal opposition party in Brazil.

FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER HOLDS TALKS IN BRAZILIA

PY311344Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0105 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 30 Aug (AFP)--Jean-Francois Deniau, the French foreign trade minister who arrived here today for a 48-hour official visit, said that President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's October visit to Brazil should bring about a reactivation in economic cooperation between the two countries. According to the minister, there have been substantial French efforts in this field during the past few years, especially a net improvement in French investments in Brazil.

During his visit here to prepare for the visit of the French president, Deniau will also examine the state of economic and commercial relations between France and Brazil. On Friday, along with Angelo Calmon de Sa, Brazil's industry and commerce minister, Deniau will sign a formal statement approving the work of the joint French-Brazilian commission for economic cooperation, which began its work in Brasilia on Tuesday. Deniau will also meet with Alysson Paulinelli, the agriculture minister, and will hold a press conference during the afternoon.

Interest in Nuclear Cooperation

PY010219Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2035 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 31 Aug (AFP)--Brazil hopes for an important French contribution in nuclear supergenerators [sobregeneradores], Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira said here today commenting on the coming visit to Brazil of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. At the end of a meeting with French Foreign Trade Minister Jean Francois Deniau, the Brazilian foreign minister indicated that Giscard's visit to Brazil at the beginning of October will take place at an opportune time and that Brazil wishes to increase its economic and trade relations with France.

Azeredo da Silveira said that Brazil is committed to developing its economic ties with all the great European powers, such as France, the FRG and the UK. Deniau, who spent 2 days in Brazil to prepare for Giscard's visit, met with Azeredo, Finance Minister Henrique Simonsen and several other ministers.

Proposals Will Be Studied

PY021430Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0350 GMT 2 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Sep (AFP)--French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Francois Deniau stated here today that if Brazil makes specific proposals on nuclear cooperation with France, such proposals will be studied very carefully. The French minister added that the matter is not now the subject of negotiations between the two countries and does not enter the area of common concerns.

He also said that during his meeting yesterday, Thursday, with Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, the latter (?spoke) in general terms of Brazilian interest in a nuclear (?reactor). Deniau remarked: "I limited myself to listening to that expression of interest." Da Silveira had stated yesterday that Brazil is expecting an important contribution by France in the field of supergenerators.

Deniau also said that the work of the French-Brazilian economic commission for industry and trade carried out in Brazilia this week was particularly fruitful. He added: "The objective of the work was not to conclude agreements, but rather to identify priority sectors for cooperation between the two countries." The French minister mentioned energy, transport, petrochemicals, telecommunications and port and mine equipment as the favored areas.

MINE STRIKE ENDS AFTER STATE OF SIEGE IS DECLARED

Government Blames Communists

PY011401Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1305 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

(Government declaration issued in Santiago, Chile at 1200 GMT on 1 September 1978)

[Text] In view of the situation at the Chuquicamata mines, the Interior Ministry reports to the Chilean people the following:

1. As is public knowledge, negotiations between the appropriate authorities and the labor sector have been held for the past few days to seek a proper and realistic solution to strong concerns of an economic nature.
2. In the last few hours, using these economic concerns as a pretext, a group of persons directly involved in the clandestine activity of the outlawed communist party tried to take advantage of this situation for political goals, causing disturbances in the normal activity of the mine and also trying to spread this disturbance to other labor activities throughout the country.
3. With the aim of avoiding the spread and deterioration of this situation in detriment to public order and national security, a state of siege has been enforced as of today throughout Loa Province.
4. This state of siege will not affect those workers and union leaders who are acting to achieve genuine labor objectives.
5. By contrast, those who have acted with other intentions, openly violating enforced regulations on public order and political recess, and those who have already been identified, have been immediately detained. Moreover, investigation of the other instigators and political agitators is now being carried out.
6. The government reiterates that it will not tolerate any attitude which is not compatible with the public order which it created for all Chileans and that it will punish with the harshest regulation any violation of the enforced law.
7. The decree law which declares the state of siege is dated 31 August 1978 and published in today's gazette. It is signed by President Augusto Pinochet and the members of the government junta: Adm Jose Toribio Merino, Gen Cesar Mendoza and Gen Ferando Matthei.

Unionist Sees Political Motives

PY012052Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Summary] Bernardino Castillo, president of the Copper Workers Confederation, has said that it is only political motives, cloaked in other guises, which are behind the troubles at the Chuquicamata mine.

He said that the pamphlet which is being circulated clandestinely is an insulting document and, in view of the terms it uses, is obviously of communist origin. In addition it insults the labor leadership and the government. This type of action is intended to obstruct labor affairs, he said, because it impedes development of good will among the parties and blocks the aspirations of the workers.

Finally, he said that the politically inspired rumors of the last few days have led to the failure to reach an agreement between the parties.

Thirteen Arrests at Chuquicamata

PY012148Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Thirteen persons have been arrested in the last few hours at the Chuquicamata copper mine. Among them are two women and five copper mine supervisors. This official information is included in a statement issued early this afternoon by Social Communication [DINACOS] Director Hugo Morales.

[Hugo Morales--begin recording] The following persons, who are either members of or are involved with, the outlawed Communist Party, have been arrested at Chuquicamata, charged with being involved in a movement of a political nature with the objective of altering the normal activity of the mining plant and the social order (?which the country is experiencing):

Mario Retamal Arellandos, chief of the Labor Relations Department; Carlos (?Puelma Crosa) Alejandro (?Xavier) Ponce [name indistinct]; Tomas Alfonso Ponce Contreras; Rosa Unzia Pinetti; [name indistinct] Jaime Cordero Carrasco; (?Felipe) Carrasco Silva; Luis Aparicio Rabanal; Margarita Ines [name indistinct] de Madariago; [name indistinct]; Rafael (?Nicaimenio) Orgibar; Mario Irribaz [name indistinct]; and David Videla Mercado.

These persons committed the following violations, among others: (?alleged) distribution of agitation pamphlets signed by the Antofagasta Regional Department of the Communist Party Central Committee; instigating workers [words indistinct] in open provocation against those who were not in agreement with their aims of creating problems unrelated to labor.

In view of this situation the government has exhausted all measures to insure a normal working day and thus block the actions of small groups which seek only political goals which disregard the interests of the fatherland and hamper the duty of authorities and labor leaders to reach a complete solution of the problems. [end recording]

Answering a question, the DINACOS chief noted that the fact that the production level is being maintained at Chuquicamata means that the workers have not listened to these instigators. [Hugo Morales recording indistinct]

Hugo Morales ended by noting that the government will disclose later to which court these detainees will be sent and where they are being held.

The judicial Department of the Interior Ministry has disclosed that the state of siege which was approved today for Loa Province is included in Decree No. 1,009, issued by the justice minister on 8 May 1975, which modified Decree No. 641, issued in 1974.

It was explained that the decree of "domestic unrest" which is now in effect in Loa Province is of the fourth degree, that is, the mildest decree included in the state of seige law. He added that this law enables the authorities to detain persons and to transfer detainees.

Boycott Ends; Workers Reinstated

FY041930Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Sep 78 FY

[Relay from Radio Loa]

[Text] Chuquicamata mine manager [name indistinct] issued the following communique at 1230 today: "The Chuquicamata mine workers have largely returned to their work site today, ending the so-called meals boycott. We have always trusted the Chuquicamata workers' good sense and honor.

"In view of this change of attitude, and because we must all contribute to the complete restoration of the harmony which has always characterized the relations between management [word indistinct], workers and labor representatives, it has been decided to reinstate the six [word indistinct] workers. This measure is effective as of this date."

The enterprise, therefore, has responded to the end of the workers' boycott of dining halls by reinstating the six workers it fired, thus opening the path to immediate negotiations between the labor and mining ministers on the one hand, and the Chuquicamata labor leaders on the other.

BRIEFS

LOAN TO PARAGUAY--The Chilean Central Bank has offered Paraguay a $2-million loan to purchase Chilean agricultural equipment, machinery, insecticides and fertilizers. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1645 GMT 2 Sep 78 FY]

DELEGATION TO MOSCOW--Santiago, Chile, 2 Sep (AFP)--a Chilean delegation left for Moscow today to attend a meeting of the World Health Organization which is going to be held in Alma Ata next week. The delegation is headed by Dr Francisco Quesney, government delegate of the National Health Services, who is accompanied by two high officials. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1658 GMT 2 Sep 78 FY]

ANTIGUERRILLA OPERATION INTENSIFIED, INSURGENTS SURROUNDED

PA040352Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1250 GMT 3 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 3 Sep (AFP)--Antiguerrilla warfare in Colombia intensified in the past few hours when three more specialized battalions were incorporated into the vast military operation, it was learned here. The operation was undertaken in response to the recent challenge by the country's extremist groups with the creation of new active fronts.

The battalions in question (from 800 to 1,000 men each) were deployed in areas most affected by the guerrillas, El Pato and Guayabero in the southwestern part of the country and Cimitarra in the northeast.

According to the Caracol Radio Network, the detachments will reinforce the cordon thrown up around insurgents in those areas several days ago.

Military spokesmen said that the troops had received specific orders to entirely exterminate the subversive pockets. Many air force units such as helicopters and reconnaissance and supply planes are involved in the action.

Military spokesmen stressed that the peasant population in those jungle areas can rest assured "that their rights will be protected by the authorities."

FARC Attack

PA040351Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1904 GMT 3 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Sep (AFP)--An armed attack which took place today on a police post in the Colombian township of San Luis, Narino Department, was attributed by official circles here to pro-Soviet guerrillas. According to the report, the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) staged a 2-hour shootout, but there were no casualties on either side. As a result of the policemen's opposition, the guerrillas decided to flee to the mountains, the sources added.

Reports noted that the rebels belong to the FARC third front, whose radius of action extends principally to the areas of middle Magdalena and Cimitarra in the northeastern part of the country.

This week military authorities announced an offensive against guerrillas in those two areas.

PCC COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNS GOVERNMENT SECURITY STATUTE

PA030004Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1723 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Sep (AFP)--The Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) announced here today that the government of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala has invented a "fabulous conspiracy to repress all democratic groups" in the country. A PCC communique stated that a recent security statute adopted by the executive branch was drawn up under the pretext of "imposing new repressive measures," which in the PCC's view will intensify "the people's struggle as a legitimate response to their miserable conditions."

This is the context, the PCC noted, in which Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho made "threatening remarks." He blamed the communists for the violence experienced in extensive Colombian areas such as Cimitarra and middle Magdalena.

"Camacho knows perfectly well," the communique adds, "that the real source of violence is the regime, which violates even the most elementary civil rights."

According to the document, this campaign "is initially directed against the PCC but it will cover all democratic groups if we are not able to set up in time a broad front against the intensification of arbitrariness."

To the PCC, "Turbay is increasingly turning to the right and is tending toward becoming a docile instrument in the hands of the hawks."

Finally, the PCC asked the working people "not to let themselves be intimidated by the defense minister's plans." It insisted on lifting the state of siege and called for participation in the demonstrations on 14 September to mark the first anniversary of the bloody national civic slowdown.

KIDNAPED AMBASSADOR RELEASED BY M-19 2 SEPTEMBER

PA021957Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Former Colombian ambassador to France, Miguel de German Ribon, who was kidnaped over 5 months ago, was released at dawn today safe and sound, according to police sources. The reports said Ribon apparently was kidnaped by a guerrilla command of the self-proclaimed 19 April movement (M-19), which recently called for a campaign against the government of President Julio Cesar Turbay.

Ribon, 58, was kidnaped in downtown Bogota on 25 March when several men riding in an automobile overtook his vehicle and forced him to enter their car.

According to sources close to the investigation, the kidnapers had demanded a $500,000 ransom. The same sources said that due to information revealed by one of the suspects in the kidnaping, the police conducted an extensive search operation in the Ciudad Kennedy sector, where Ribon was presumably being held. Apparently the kidnapers learned about these activities and decided to release him, which they did early this morning in one of the streets of Ciudad Kennedy.

According to Radio Cadena Nacional, the industrialist and former diplomat said he was in good health and had received proper treatment during his captivity. There was no information available on whether Ribon's relatives actually paid the ransom demanded by the kidnapers.

Ribon is now resting at his La Conchilla estate, according the police reports.

Industrialist Released

PA042024Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Cali--Freddy (Lener) Toro, an economist and industrial leader, was released today safe and sound after a gang of common criminals was paid a 4-million pesos ransom.

The 24-year-old man was kidnaped 3 months ago in downtown Cali by 3 men and a woman who demanded the payment of 10 million pesos for his release.

The release of the assistant manager of (Lener) industries was negotiated in Bogota, where the ransom was paid, according to official spokesmen.

The industrial leader was returned to his home this morning.

EFFORTS TO REFINANCE NATIONAL DEBT, HARSH MEASURES DEFENDED

PA021815Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0331 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 1 Sep (EFE)--Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez today pointed out the need to refinance the nation's foreign debt and acknowledged the harshness of the economic measures the people are currently experiencing.

Speaking at the commemoration of the anniversary of the Peruvian Army's intendancy services, Morales Bermudez announced that negotiations to acquire more favorable terms for the nation's foreign debt will be undertaken in October.

The chief of state said that economic difficulties oblige the government to take "very hard measures" which undoubtedly are "not pleasing to us or to the Peruvian people."

He said these measures, however, are the "only ones" that can be adopted under the present circumstances. Not to take them, he stressed, would cause "unforeseeable repercussions" in the future.

He was referring to the elimination of subsidies of various food products and a reduction of public expenditures which calls for the dismissal of thousands of government employees.

The answer to this has been an almost general protest and strikes in several productive sectors of the country.

Discontent has been expressed by government employees who, in a street demonstration yesterday, announced their intention to go on a 2-day nationwide strike. If carried out, it would be the third such strike in Peru in less than 1 year.

Nevertheless, Morales Bermudez pointed out in his speech that the present situation calls for much firmness and that this will be the government's attitude since it would be worse to adopt "a demagogic attitude, which fortunately we do not have."

The chief executive asked Peruvians to contribute with their personal conduct to the solution to national problems.

He noted that the budgets of military and police institutions have suffered serious cutbacks as have all public sector budgets.

He recognized, however, that the budget deficit is one of the basic causes of inflation affecting the country.

Last Saturday, Economy Minister Javier Silva said in a press conference that the Peruvian fiscal deficit was reduced from 24 to 19 percent with the austerity measures of the past 3 months.

A basic reorganization of public expenditures will stabilize the deficit by next December, Silva said.

He added that the present rate of inflation is 35 percent but it is rising and by December it will be no less than 60 percent.

GRADUAL RETURN TO MINES, NEGOTIATIONS STALEMATE REPORTED

PA020024Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 1 Sep (EFE)--Mining activity began to return to normal in the copper mines in Southern Peru after the Peruvian Government asked miners to return to work starting today.

The U.S. Southern Peru Copper Corporation told EFE that 27 percent of the miners returned to work in the Toquepala copper mines. Similarly, 20 percent of the workers of the foundry owned by the same company in the southern port of Ilo have returned to work. Normally, 3,000 persons work at these two centers.

The Peruvian State Mining Enterprise [MINEROPERU] reported that 30 percent of the miners of Cerro Verde, also in the country's south, returned to work as well as 90 percent of the office staff. According to MINEROPERU spokesmen, the labor situation is expected to be normal by Monday.

Two lead processing plants owned by the Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise in Peru's central region also resumed activities.

Leaders of the Federation of Miners and Metallurgical Workers of Peru said that the situation "remained unchanged" and that the authorities have shown no interest in meeting with them.

Hierro-Peru Union Ends Strike

PA0420102Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0032 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 3 Sep (EFE)--Members of one of the two labor unions of the state Hierro-Peru [Peruvian Iron Mines Company] returned to work today after their union agreed to lift the strike begun 30 days ago.

However, the miners union [as received] remains on strike and only 300 of its members returned to their jobs.

The position taken by the Hierro-Peru employees is contributing to a normalization of mining activities in the country. Official figures indicate that the strike is costing a total of $2.5 million daily.

STUDY REVEALS HIGH PETROLEUM POTENTIAL IN JUNGLE REGION

PA022256Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Aug 78 p 5 PA

[Excerpts] According to a study made by the State Petroleum Agency [PETROPERU] over the past 8 years, petroleum is present in 35 million hectares of the Peruvian Jungle. The report was revealed yesterday at the Fourth Peruvian Conference on Geology.

Federico Seminario, head of stratigraphy and paleontology in PETROPERU's geology department, reported on the research accomplished through the physical-chemical analysis of rocks in the jungle's surface and subsoil.

In an informal news conference, Seminario maintained that an impressive potential source of petroleum has been found in the north-central fields, specifically, in the regions of Ucayali central and Maranonn, estimating that 30 million hectares can be explored there.

Similarly, studies completed in the southern region of Madre de Dios revealed that there is a high petroleum potential in 5 million hectares.

He said that the studies covered 21 wells and 34 places in a sampling which included the north-central jungle areas and Peru's southeast.

He also stated that most of the petroleum is found in the layer formed during the "cretaceous" period (60 million years ago) and under the stratigraphic formation called "chonta."

He also explained that the estimated potential in the north-central region of the Peruvian jungle consists mostly of "heavy" petroleum, technically described as being of top quality.

PEREZ TO REQUEST SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NICARAGUA

PA021741Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 2 Sep (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said here today that he has urged his UN representatives to ask for a consultative meeting of the Security Council on the serious situation in Nicaragua. Perez' statements were released shortly after news reports on his request arrived here from the United Nations. The Venezuelan president gave no further details about Venezuela's request to the Security Council.

Venezuela, which has recently stressed the need for a peaceful settlement between the government of Anastasio Somoza and the opposition, discussed at the OAS on Friday the necessity for the OAS Human Rights Commission to visit that Central American nation.

Request Withdrawn

PA022151Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Text] United Nations, New York, 2 Sep (AFP)--It was learned here today that Venezuela has decided to withdraw its request that the UN Security Council be convened to study the situation in Nicaragua. Venezuelan representative to the Security Council Ruben Carpio Castillo notified the Security Council members of his government's decision. Today, Venezuela requested the convocation of a ministerial meeting at the OAS to analyze the situation in Nicaragua.

PEREZ CITES OIL PRICE HIKE IN 'IMMEDIATE FUTURE'

PA042142Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 3 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 2 Sep (VENPRESS)--The Venezuelan Petroleum Company [PETROVEN] will celebrate its third anniversary with a satisfactory level of production and sales while maintaining our OPEC commitments and contributing to the economic and social transformation of the country. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez made this statement on the third anniversary of the promulgation of the decree which created PETROVEN as a state enterprise and which led to the nationalization of the country's oil industry. In his speech, the chief of state noted the important role played by the Venezuelan oil industry, as well as its development over the last few years beginning with its nationalization.

Nationalization

Referring to initial years, the president said: "We did not give in, we did not lower our guard, we did not yield in our effort or in our commitments within OPEC, and on 1 January 1976 the nationalization of oil began with a satisfactory level of sales and with the prices which we were obliged to set in line with the commitments made within OPEC." The first 2 years passed without significant difficulties, and the state enterprise began making plans which represented the largest investments ever made in the company's oil industry. "Early in 1978 the company faced difficulties which it immediately overcame, and production and exports recovered satisfactory levels. Prices have been maintained in line with our commitments to OPEC. One can foresee in the immediate future the establishment of new and higher prices for oil throughout the world," President Perez emphasized.

We are celebrating this third anniversary of the creation of the main company of the Venezuelan oil industry, the president continued, with optimism, but always with concern and with a high sense of the responsibility which the Venezuelan state has assumed by nationalizing petroleum.

The Technological Processes

The president then noted that the Venezuelan Petroleum Technological Institute [INTEVEP] was created on 1 January 1976 to provide the national technology required for the exploration and exploitation of petroleum.

"We are advancing along that path in order to create our own technology, to adapt foreign technology to our realities and to purchase the foreign technology that our country needs," the president said.

In this regard he explained that INTEVEP maintains direct communications and exchanges [of information] with state organizations such as PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] in Brazil and the Mexican Petroleum Institute.

Concerning comments made by certain sectors regarding the danger of transfering responsibility for PETROVEN to the transnationals, President Perez said that it is regrettable that some Venezuelans should use terms that create public confusion regarding the government's clear and nationalistic policy. He added that future administrations will have to follow this policy, "because the country will not tolerate any other."

"In a democratic country," the president said, "in which the central government and state enterprises and institutes are subject to political and administrative contol by the congress, it is impossible to believe that secret or confidential operations can be carried out that are contrary to what is stated publicly and contrary to the provisions of laws which govern the activity of the Venezuelan oil enterprise."

How Is Venezuelan Oil Marketed?

In explaining how Venezuela's main export is sold abroad, the chief of state said: "A mere 2 and ½ years since oil was nationalized, almost 35 percent of our oil is sold directly by PETROVEN without intervention by transnational enterprises."

I believe that this is an extraordinary success, he emphasized, which surprises even us--that in such a short time we should have been able to sell one-third of the oil which was formerly sold by transnational enterprises that administer the oil industry.

Regarding present negotiations, the president said that, in addition to the established ties with the Mexican Petroleum Institute and PETROBRAS, contacts and negotiations have been established with Japan, Canada, France and Germany.

Carlos Andres Perez explained that with the latter three countries possibilities for advice and participation in the exploration of the Orinoco oil deposits are being discussed without making a commitment regarding Venezuela's exploitation of the deposits.

In that sense he explained that Venezuela still requires foreign technological input to continue exploring and to establish the technologies required to explore that strip for maximum results.

The Immediate Future

"Next year exploratio Will start with the purpose of exploiting the Cerro Negro strip. This will be done using Venezuelan technology of continuous vapor injection, with which we will try to exploit petroleum in that area," he announced.

The chief executive stressed that time has not been lost, that great progress has been made without foreign involvement, seeking exclusively the nation's best interests.

Concluding his statements on his administration's achievements in the petroleum industry, the president pointed out that, "when what has been done is analyzed from the perspective of history, it will be admitted not only that an extraordinary effort was made but something more important, that it has been an effort that enjoyed total success."

He emphasized that the government has managed the resources forthcoming from the petroleum industry with prudence, based on generous estimates, so that no risk would be run in making large investments for exploration and increasing proven reserves of Venezuelan petroleum.

"We need these investments and this activity to assure the nation long-term sales of large amounts of petroleum to provide the resources for the development of our country," he said.

He continued by saying that, "convinced of the need for OPEC as the instrument of Third World countries to create a new international economic order that is just and equitable, Venezuela must improve its negotiating stand to the maximum so that our voice can be heard, firm, strong, and selfless, as is the voice of the developing nations throughout the world."

Foresight and the Use of Resources

"We had the foresight to create a Venezuelan investment fund to accumulate resources that would serve the development of the country.

"We have also had the foresight to permit Petroleos de Venezuela to create another investment fund for the petroleum industry," he added.

He explained that this is the responsible way in which the government has managed the capital industry, the fundamental industry of Venezuela's present and future.

In conclusion he said that resources are being used well in the petroleum industry and outside of it, in basic enterprises for the country, in credits for private industry and in the development of Venezuelan agriculture.

He concluded by emphasizing that, despite the limitations caused by the shortage of human resources, "this could not prevent us at a historic moment, in a special situation, from assuming this responsibility of transforming Venezuela, with all its defects, failings and omissions. Today we have a new country."

TORRIJOS TO RELINQUISH GOVERNMENT ROLE, RETAIN MILITARY POST

PA011816Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The chief of government held an urgent meeting this morning with part of the honorable Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and his full General Staff and made the following public statement: Following continuous private meetings we have decided, with the intimate agreement of the General Staff, not to seek the post of president of the republic nor that of chief of government but to remain in the post of commander-in-chief of the National Guard. We have also agreed to pull back, in an orderly fashion, the armed institution from a primary role in the government to operate on a secondary level, always guaranteeing that the revolutionary process will remain irreversible.

The chief of government continued: From the National Guard headquarters, I could be the guardian, along with the popular power structure, to insure that the national conquests may be maintained. We have come to very respectfully propose as presidential hopefuls Dr Aristides Royo as president and Ricardo de la Espriella as vice president. They are citizens with well-known patriotic backgrounds and unblemished honesty. We make this proposal after profound thought and knowing the enormous importance of this recommendation. However, the free and spontaneous decision of accepting this suggestion I have made will depend on the full assembly.

Following this statement, a dialog continued with the participation of all present, which continued almost until noon today. The chief of government--who on this occasion met with about 150 representatives, some whose term is about to end and others who were recently elected--explained that the shortness of time and the need to express this decision as soon as possible kept him from calling the entire assembly together, both the outgoing and incoming ones. He said that sometime soon he will begin meetings with provincial representatives first and then with the full chambers to formally organize the special meetings that have to be held to freely analyze, without pressures of any kind, the constitutional reforms that the assembly, both the incoming and outgoing ones, will consider for approval. At the time this information is being released, the meeting is continuing.

Nicaragua Situation Influenced Torrijos

PA042034Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

["Radioperiodico Conciencia" commentary by Milciades Ortiz]

[Excerpts] Much speculation and political talk was caused by the announcement on Friday that Gen Omar Torrijos refused to be president of Panama or continue as chief of government.

Although there is no official report on what led to General Torrijos' decision, this commentator believes, after consulting with several persons, that the situation in Nicaragua has impressed the chief of government. In Nicaragua, a single family has been in command for the past 41 years and now is leading the nation to the brink of a bloody war in which brothers are fighting brothers.

Radical groups of Panamanian students have already been parading with posters that insultingly read: Torrijos and Somoza, the same thing. This apparently hurt Torrijos' feelings.

The strategy then was to leave the administration of the government to civilians while true power would primarily or totally lie in the entity which is the guardian of the ideals of the 1968 revolution: the National Guard headquarters.

As far as this commentator can tell, this decision was almost purely personal. Torrijos had to have a lot of courage to uphold his decision before the councils, friends and supporters who oppose this retreat to the garrisons 10 years after the coup, just as we are about to enter into the Canal Zone.

It is also known that some circles are not happy about the nomination of Aristides Royo for president. He is accused of being a leftist and an Arnulfist, among other things. It is known that powerful economic groups would not accept him as president because of his connection with leftists and that is why Ricardo de la Espriella was added to the slate. Nobody can call de la Espriella a leftist or radical.

Other reports indicate the possibility that the Torrijos family may also retreat from frontline positions in the government in order to erase any negative feelings regarding the character of the present administration.

Royo, De la Espriella Selection Welcomed

PA0120147 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Dr Aristides Royo and Ricardo de la Espriella were very loudly applauded a few minutes ago when Vice President of the Republic Gerardo Gonzalez Vernaza interrupted the National Council of State's discussion of a bill lowering the import tax on automobiles [to announce] that Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos had proposed Royo and De la Espriella for president and vice president of the republic. The two high-ranking officials, who were attending the meeting of the National Council of State, abstained from commenting.

Vice President Gonzalez pointed out that Royo has extensive knowledge of the new canal treaty and the revolutionary process, that De la Espriella is abreast of the nation's financial, political and economic situation and that both men were fit for the posts for which they were nominated by General Torrijos.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said that the announcement is in line with the desire of the chief of government to end the division of power between the office of chief of state and the presidency and to return all constitutional powers to the presidency. Escobar said that the creation in 1972 of the office of chief of government stemmed from the need to place a strong executive at the lead of the nation to face the negotiating process. Escobar added that now that the nation is building for the future, this is the way of definitely shaping the democraticization process. Escobar maintained that in whatever post he may hold, Torrijos will continue to be the leader of the revolution. Escobar remarked that Torrijos had always held that his intention was to obtain the nation's decolonization and not his perpetuation in power.

Labor Federation Message

PA0421227 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Sep 78 pp 1, 10A PA

[Telegram from Workers Labor Federation to Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera sent on 2 September]

[Text] Brig Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, chief of government and National Guard commander, general headquarters, Panama City.

The Workers Labor Federation of Panama reasserts the idea that you should continue as chief of government, National Guard commander in chief and top leader of the revolutionary process.

We believe that the nomination for president of the republic which you have presented for the consideration of the honorable National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives is positive for the continuity of the ideals of this process. [sentence as published]

We are convinced that this is the opinion of the Panamanian people. General Torrijos, you owe it to yourself to your people, and your people support you.

Patriotic greetings.

For the Trade Union Federation of the Republic of Panama (FSTRP):

Francisco Sanchez Jr, secretary general; Lorenzo Mora M, secretary of finance.

Radio Mia Criticism

PA022138Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Ramon Pereira Jr commentary]

[Excerpt] General Torrijos has definitely been criticized here often for some of his decisions; at other times he has been acclaimed. We are here to be objective in our comments and views. When we have to applaud, we applaud; when we have to criticize, well, we criticize.

I think one of the worst decisions or proposals made by General Torrijos is this one, to propose Dr Royo for president of the republic. I think General Torrijos was wrong in making the decision because if the man was unable to handle a ministry, is he going to be able to cope with the presidency? He was everywhere, except where he should have been, and there were many educational problems, even booklets that are still circulating and educational reforms that are still going around that cannot be understood and that are teaching our children the contrary of what Panama has always been.

Well, this is my opinion. I think this decision by General Torrijos was not quite right.

Royo Comments on Nomination

PA020309Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Interview with Education Minister Aristides Royo by Radio Libertad reporter on 1 September--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] We would like to know your first reaction to the announcement that you have been nominated for president by General Torrijos and the General Staff.

[Answer] It was a great surprise for us because none of us, the members of the government team, was hoping to become president of the republic. No one was campaigning for it. There was no struggle for it. There was no one who was talking to [corregimiento] representatives in search of votes. We are all aware of General Torrijos' leadership and we all show him the respect he deserves. We were all aware that it had to be he, as leader of this government and people, who, in talks with corregimiento representatives, would settle the matter.

I must say that there was great joy; joy which, if I can remember correctly because I was overtaken by emotion, all my companions truly and honestly shared, companions who were happy to see one of their own chosen for the position; joy because of the selection of these two persons for president and vice president of the republic, a great trust in us and a great emotion.

Now what I must tell Radio Libertad is that it is a great responsibility, a demanding job left by President Lakas and Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez. It will be a very difficult job, but we base our hopes on the fact that it will be a government of unity, a great government of unity that will continue the objectives of the present government. We will try to develop the economic and social aspects of this country and begin the great process of decolonization with the first transfers that will be effective next year. It will be a task that may not be too complicated, maybe simple because, when a whole government joins efforts and works together, work can be then carried out in an organized and effective manner.

We believe that this nomination represents not only the trust of corregimiento representatives but also the trust of General Torrijos and his General Staff. It is more than trust; it is the hope that they have given us. It represents the hope of many years of (?development) of de la Espriella and myself, years that have not been in vain. We have learned many things, and there are a lot more to learn.

[Question] One last question, Dr Royo. When will you leave the Education Ministry?

[Royo] I have not yet discussed that, but I believe it will be next week. I will turn it over to Diogenes Cedeno (Centi) on a temporary basis because de la Espriella and I will start to get organized for 11 October. Do not forget that we are candidates for the presidency.

Royo Resigns 4 Sep

PA031511Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 3 Sep 78 p 1 PA

[Excerpt] Minister of Education Dr Aristides Royo, who is also a leading candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Panama, will resign his post tomorrow to begin holding meetings and making speeches in connection with his campaign, according to official sources of the Education Ministry.

A spokesman said that Dr Royo will travel around the entire country to develop working consultation and coordination in relation with the candidacy. Royo will consult with representatives in popular areas as well as remote ones in a series of addresses that will further assist his program.

It was further reported that the current vice minister of education, Dr Diogenes Cenci, will be in charge of the ministry and that Professor Nelis Borrero, present planning and educational reform director, will assume the vice minister post.

SANDINISTS CITE U.S. MEDIATION AS INTERFERENCE IN NICARAGUA

PA012346Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2000 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 1 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) said here today that it fears U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. During a news conference, the Sandinists who seized the National Palace in Managua last week rejected President Jimmy Carter's announced plan to mediate in the Nicaraguan crisis. Dora Maria Tellez, Commander Dos, said in the National Guard garrison where she has stayed for the past week that "we know what kind of mediation Carter wants. We have painful memories of of that mediation. The United States has invaded our fatherland three times and it supports Somoza."

Hugo Torres Jimenez, Uno, said that the Nicaraguan people have misgivings about Carter's mediation because it could be in the style of the 1965 military intervention in the Dominican Republic.

During the news conference, a communique of the FSLN National Directorate was released. It rejected any type of mediation by the U.S. Government or the OAS, which the guerrillas said is used by Washington as an instrument of intervention.

The guerrillas are sure that Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime has little time left. Dora Maria said that Sandinism believes that the establishment of a popular democracy, with representation of all sectors which fought against Somoza, is currently feasible.

Ivan Montenegro, one of the prisoners released as a result of the seizure of the National Palace, said that "the prompt overthrow of the dictatorship is foreseen." He added that with the cracks in the political and economic foundations of the Somoza regime, which has ruled Nicaragua for 45 years, the Nicaraguan Government is now maintained in power by U.S. military support.

The Sandinists denounced the presence of U.S. advisers and Vietnamese, Cuban and other foreign mercenaries who are supporting the Nicaraguan Regular Army.

"Somoza is tottering. New popular uprisings are occurring. The dictatorship is agonizing. We believe that this is a decisive moment. The action of the commando group which attacked the National Palace has shaken the dictatorship," Montenegro said.

Dora Maria, the 22-year-old guerrilla commander, said that the Sandinist Front is present in all the events which occur in Nicaragua. "We are present in all combat actions. But the Sandinist Front is not only a military organization; we also have political sessions to organize and (?arm) the people. There is also work among young officers and soldiers of the National Guard," Montenegro added.

Commander Dos said that the recent plot by militarymen discovered by President Somoza is the result of the internal disintegration of the army. Dora Maria said more contradictions in the National Guard can come out any minute.

Marta Isabel Crancho, 23 years old, one of the eight women released by the seizure of the National Palace, also participated in the news conference held in the Panamanian National Guard garrison in Tinajita, outside Panama City. She denied [as received] the mistreatment, abuse, torture and rape of Sandinist prisoners in Nicaragua. She also said that some prisoners have been killed.

COSTA RICA

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON PASTORA'S PRESENCE, VESCO

PA0421llY San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[Station correspondent's interview with Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria in San Jose on 4 Sep--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Minister, what security measures will the government take in connection with Eden Pastora's presence here? Does the government feel that the physical presence of this Sandinist guerrilla leader could disrupt peace and calm here?

[Answer] We are sure that is not so. Eden Pastora is a Costa Rican and, as such, has a right to remain in Costa Rica as long as he wants and to enter and leave the republic freely, so long as he fulfills the legal requirements. We see no reason to take special security measures just because a Costa Rican comes back to his country. We are sure that, as a Costa Rican, Eden Pastora will understand the government's position of strict neutrality because of the international treaties and commitments we have and that he will not use Costa Rica in his actions in such a way as to hurt us or violate our country's legal international commitments.

[Question] Lacayo Farfan, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica, says he is very concerned about Pastora's presence here?

[Answer] I do not know if the ambassador is worried or not. I sincerely think that he should not be worried. I repeat this. Pastora made very clear statements to the press. I do not think Pastora will become a problem. I do not think Pastora will use Costa Rica as a base for operations against Nicaragua, and I am sure that he will behave while he is in Costa Rica as a Costa Rican citizen should.

[Question] Mr Minister, changing the subject, the deadline of the extension of the permission granted by the Second District court judge for Robert Vesco's return is 25 September. Will the immigration authorities permit him to return?

[Answer] I had the impression that was a closed chapter.

[Question] But, Mr Minister, Vesco has to go before the Second District court judge.

[Answer] We consider that Vesco should not return to the country and, from that viewpoint, we see it as a closed chapter.

[Question] Why are you so sure when you say Vesco will not return to Costa Rica?

[Answer] Because we are not going to let him in.

[Question] Have you given the orders?

[Answer] The orders were given immediately after the sentence handed down by the Second District court judge.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICIAL REPORTS END OF STRIKE

PA020004Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] [Station reporter] We are here at the main headquarters of the Costa Rican Social Security Service. Next to me is Dr Alvaro Fernandez Salas, executive director of the institution, who since 0800 has been holding a meeting with the executive board. Now Dr Fernandez Salas is going to address the nation through a communique on the strike which, it has just been reported, is over. [Begin Fernandez Salas recording] The strike called by certain unions of the Costa Rican Social Security Service is over. Commonsense has prevailed for the good of the country and for the security of all those who receive [words indistinct] the institution. The security service was never reluctant to hold a dialog within a legal framework. Now, calmly and after legal order has been restored, we are poised to talk, thanks to the much appreciated mediation of the bishops of the episcopal conference. In view of the victory of the [words indistinct], we invite all workers to renew efforts within that framework to advance that institution, which belongs to and serves all Costa Ricans. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUAN EXPATRIATES SUPPORT OPPOSITION IN HOMELAND

PA011416Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Ten of the most prominent Nicaraguans residing in El Salvador have sent a telegram to Radio Corporacion in Managua, Nicaragua, which states: Nicaraguans in El Salvador, formed into a committee in support of the Broad Opposition Front, with all patriotism support the strike which has been called and all actions taken to exterminate the opprobrious dictatorship of Somoza. The Broad Opposition Front against the Somoza government is made up of traditional political parties and the private sector, which is represented by the association of Chambers of Commerce, the Chamber of Industry and the Nicaraguan Development Institute.

KIDNAPED COFFEEGROWER MONEDERO RELEASED

PA020224Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1633 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 1 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--It was learned here today, Friday, that Armando Tomas Monedero, coffeegrower and sportsman, was released this morning in Santa Ana, 66 km west of San Salvador. A radio station in Santa Ana said that Monedero had communicated with it to thank all Salvadorans who had cooperated in his release.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA ACCUSES U.S. OF PROMOTING HIS OUSTER

PA021635Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2359 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Text] Managua, 1 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle has accused the United States of directing a campaign against him to besmirch his reputation and overthrow him.

Somoza told ACAN-EFE during an exclusive interview today that "President Carter's government is in the hands of leftists and communists." According to Somoza, the global campaign against Nicaragua has many fronts and angles and the two principal protagonists are the United States and Russia.

Somoza also mentioned Cuba during the interview and accused Fidel Castro of helping the Sandinist guerrillas with military training. "All you have to do is listen to Radio Havana, which is swamping Nicaragua with broadcasts," said Somoza. Asked whether Fidel Castro was supplying arms to the Sandinist guerrillas, Somoza said: "I have no proof of this," but he added that in the past "we have killed many Cubans who came here to fight against us." He concluded: "You know that 22 of the 25 guerrillas who went to Panama after the attack on the National Palace have now gone to Cuba."

Somoza, who is experiencing the most difficult period of his political career in Managua, where bombs explode in the streets and fighting continues in several other parts of the country, was especially vehement in referring to the role of the United States. "It controls the world's propaganda and the images of men and nations." However, he added: "Do not think that I am alone and that I do not have friends in the United States. My friends have told Carter not to continue on that course if he wants support on many things in the future. The struggle is being waged in the United States."

After reaffirming that he plans to complete his constitutional term as president in 1981, Somoza conceded that perhaps the world's bad image of Nicaragua and the attacks against him are the result of the fact that the Somoza dynasty has been in power controlling Nicaragua for more than 40 years. "Perhaps it is true that there cannot be 40-year dynasties in the 20th century, but we, the Somozas, have carried out this work under the law, winning elections, not like Fidel Castro, who has been in power for 20 years and has still not made an attempt to give Cubans a modern state," said General Somoza, son and brother of presidents.

He added: "My friend Franco himself never granted Spain any elections. We, on the contrary, have been elected for the positions we occupy." Queried about the reasons for U.S. opposition to him, Somoza recalled that Nicaragua nationalized banks and many other U.S. companies in the 40's "and they never forgave us for that." However, he said the fundamental reason is that Carter's government is controlled by leftists. Somoza's charge against the United States comes at a time when everyone in Nicaragua is wondering whether Somoza is on the way out. In Nicaragua, almost everyone believes that the United States has the last word, that it is in Washington where the survival or disappearance of Somozism or Somoza himself is being decided.

Perhaps with clear knowledge of where the hurricane's center lies, Somoza decided to send his cousin, Luis Pallais Debayle, to Washington. Luis Pallais Debayle is a spokesman for the ruling Liberal Party, vice president of the Congress and director of the pro-government newspaper NOVEDADES. He was also one of the hostages during the Sandinist takeover of the National Palace in Managua 1 week ago. Luis Pallais Debayle is holding talks with newsmen, politicians and other influential U.S. sectors.

Somoza is trying to convince the sectors which control power in the United States that the only options are Somozism or chaos, Somoza or the procommunist Sandinist National Liberation Front. Queried today about the type of government Nicaragua might have if he withdrew, as the opposition is demanding, Somoza replied: "a military government." He added: "But during the period after my withdrawal from power there would be a civil war with many casualties." He recalled that Nicaragua experienced a civil war in the 20's, resulting in approximately 20,000 casualties.

Other official sources which prefer to remain anonymous told ACAN-EFE that Somoza is working continuously to contain the impulses of several generals and other high-ranking National Guard (army) officers who are exerting pressure to wage an open, extremely repressive struggle against the guerrillas. Perhaps that is what Somoza was referring to when he said emphatically today: "Any government which comes after me will be much more repressive."

According to Somoza, the National Guard could attack and eliminate the cells of resistance and guerrillas very easily, "but we do not do this because there are families and innocent civilians in the battlefields." Finally, he said that the operation in Matagalpa, a city of 30,000 inhabitants which have risen up against the National Guard in the last few days, ended with the withdrawal of the rebels (approximately 200) into the mountains and the entry of government troops into the city. We have sustained one dead and seven wounded, while they had six dead on Thursday alone, said Somoza. However, other reports circulating in Managua from self-proclaimed "eyewitnesses" affirm that the number of wounded soldiers was much greater and that one personnel carrier and a mechanical shovel which was being used by the National Guard to clear barricades were left inoperable by contact bombs and Molotov cocktails.

Further Remarks

PA021714Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Excerpts] Managua, 2 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--President Anastasio Somoza told ACAN-EFE yesterday that Nicaragua is probably the freest nation in the world. When he was then asked about Nicaragua's bad image and the reason for the struggle against the Somozas, the president--the latest ruler in a dynasty that has held power for over 40 years in Nicaragua--said: "Because Nicaragua has been in the vanguard in America, carrying out a series of programs at a time when Fidel Castro was not even drinking milk." He added: "We were the founders of the liberal revolution in America and it was passed on to Colombia, Ecuador and Honduras." "The government over which I preside is democratic and moderate but since we oppose Marxists we are the target of an international campaign to discredit us," Somoza went on to say.

Somoza challenged the international press in Managua to go out into the streets and ask the people about Somoza. "If they did not want me, I would not be here," he said, referring to the presidential chair in the "bunker" in which he was seated at the time.

Somoza had especially harsh words for Cuba, a country which, he said, is directly to blame for the armed struggle in Nicaragua and what he called "communist subversion." "You tell the people that of the 25 guerrillas who were in Panama after having seized the National Palace, 22 went to Cuba, their fatherland, where they are protected," he exclaimed. And then he said: "But I have the bearded man on the defensive."

Somoza cited the example of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA as a sign that freedom of the press is respected in Nicaragua. "I believe in complete and total freedom of information," he said. To the question: "But Mr President, how do you then explain the closing of radio stations in the past few days," he rejoined: "I must enforce the law."

GOVERNMENT CLOSES NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

PA021932Y Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 2 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 2 Sep (AFP)--The whole of Nicaragua was in the grip of a general strike today despite the army's recapture of the nation's third city, Matagalpa, from Sandinist rebels.

The government today decided to close the Nicaraguan Development Institute which called the strike and which has been accused of directing illegal activities. The institute, which links 700 companies and is the country's most important industrial union, recently joined the opposition front.

ALL NEWSCASTERS FORCED TO TAKE 'VACATIONS'

PA041940Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[Text] We have just learned that all news reporters of Nicaraguan radio stations have been forced to take vacations for an indefinite period, effective tomorrow, for the sole purpose of attempting to silence them.

GOVERNMENT ARRESTS OPPOSITION LEADERS; STRIKES CONTINUE

PA032350Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 3 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--At least six opposition political leaders were arrested today Sunday, by government agents in various cities of the interior of the country. Ernesto Hallmarken, president of the Democratic Union of Liberation (UDEL), was arrested in Leon, as was Eduardo Coronado, leader of the Independent Liberal Party, an opposition group. Dr Oscar Perez Duben was arrested in Chinandega. Braulio Lanuza of the UDEL leadership in Estelí was also taken to jail. It was learned that the home of Dr Simon Delgado, an opposition leader in Estelí, had been surrounded by military troops, but no arrest has been reported. Silvio Sandino Munoz, an opponent of President Somoza in Granada, said that he considers himself "a political refugee."

At the same time, it was learned that in Matagalpa arrests of civilians believed to have participated in the acts of resistance in the city are continuing. In addition reports from Matagalpa indicate that this morning buzzards were seen flying over the hills around the city. It is believed that there may be corpses in the area that have not been picked up.

Meanwhile, it is known that the National Guard general staff held an important meeting on Saturday afternoon. Any agreements reached by the military group have not been made public. But an official report released today by the government secretariat of information and the press states that patrols in Managua and other interior cities "have been greatly increased in number." The government emphasizes that the increased patrols in Managua and the rest of the country are designed to "eliminate violence at all levels, such as the manufacturing and throwing of bombs, the erecting of barricades and building of bonfires, distribution of subversive material and other acts of violence." On the other hand the strike by some 14,000 hospital workers which began on 20 July and which affects some 17 Nicaraguan hospitals, remains unsettled. Construction workers are also on strike in sympathy with the hospital workers. At the same time, the general strike called for by the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) since Friday, 25 August, continues, but it is believed that the decisive day for that movement will be tomorrow, Monday. The objective of the general strike is to have the Somoza family withdraw from public power after over 40 years of controlling the country's public affairs.

200 Arrested

PA040323Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0239 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[By Peter Calvert]

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Sep (LATIN)--The government today won a victory over the opposition by arresting over 200 "agitators" and leaders of the strike called a week ago to press for President Anastasio Somoza's resignation.

Sources close to the strike organizers said the leaders of the strike, all prominent businessmen, attorneys and politicians, were arrested in several cities in the country. A Spanish clergyman was also expelled from the country.

The report adds that Spanish priest Pedro Maria Beizunigui was thrown out of the country for involvement in politics. A National Guard statement said that (?bombs) were found in his parish in Granada, southeast of Managua.

Organizers of the strike called last week by the Broad Opposition Front to press for President Anastasio Somoza's resignation said that the arrest of their colleagues "shows weakness on the part of the government." William Baez, secretary of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, which unites about 700 private firms, stated: "They are trying to get rid of the strike leaders. Those arrested are respectable people."

The arrests were made by National Guard detachments in several cities in the countryside. At least three of those arrested were regional leaders of the Democratic Union of Liberation, a major political opposition alliance. In the case of the arrests made in Managua, observers agreed that they seem to be aimed at "disturbing" elements rather than at mere demonstrators. The capital was calm tonight. A National Guard communique said: "Now that public order will be maintained, businessmen will be able to reopen their shops."

More Opposition Leaders Arrested

PA042054Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1858 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Several high-ranking Nicaraguan opposition leaders were arrested today, Monday, in various parts of this capital. Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, manager of the Coca-Cola Company in Nicaragua, was arrested by public forces shortly after it was learned that business leader Jose Francisco Teran had been captured. Calero Portocarrero was apparently arrested near his house in this city, where military patrols had been awaiting him. The political leader is a director of the Authentic Conservative Party, one of the three factions into which traditionalist conservatism is divided. He is also a member of the Broad Opposition Front, the political organization that 11 days ago called a general strike in this country.

Lawyer Pedro J. Quintanilla, a director of the Liberal Constitutionalist Movement led by Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero, is another of the high-ranking leaders arrested. Opposition members Frank Lanzas and Humberto Belli Pereira have also been taken into custody.

According to a last-minute report, Samuel Barrero Arguello, former president of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, has also been arrested. The arrests of the high-ranking Nicaraguan opposition leaders are presumably connected with the government's charges that they are promoting a general strike in Nicaragua. The strike is aimed at overthrowing the Somoza family.

GENERAL STRIKE SAID TO HAVE GATHERED STRENGTH

PA050136Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1904 GMT 4 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 4 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE) board of directors commented today, Monday, that the general strike called here 11 days ago "had gathered strength." Manuel Jose Torres, president of INDE, which includes some 700 members of the private sector, said that last weekend the strike had attained 80-percent support. However, he emphasized that the strike "was not begun by INDE."

This organization has supported the strike called by the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) since Friday 25 August to pressure President Somoza into leaving power. The business leader was asked if this week is decisive for the strike. He replied that it is up to political party representatives "to decide if the strike continues or not."

He then said that there are businessmen prepared to remain on strike for 2 or 3 weeks. They are veterans of the general strike held in Nicaragua last February. Commenting on the government's attitude toward the businessmen who have supported the strike, Torres said: "The government's attitude has been repressive. It has cancelled INDE's and the Chamber of Commerce's legal status. It also wants to eliminate the freedom to organize."

The INDE also published a statement insisting on a democratic alternative to solve Nicaraguan problems. "We emphatically deny that our country has only two alternatives: the totalitarian system of the Somoza family or an extreme left dictatorship. There is a third, democratic alternative, which involves substantial social, political and economic reforms to improve the living conditions of Nicaraguans. Choosing this third alternative is an urgent matter today and can be carried out by means of a transitional national unity government."

Meanwhile, Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime has increased patrols in Managua, trying to make commerce and industry open its doors. At least 100 military vehicles reinforce the patrols. Some 500 additional troops have been mobilized "to guarantee that businessmen can open their establishments today. Law and order will be maintained so that people can carry out their normal daily activities," the army said.

Strike Effectiveness Figures Unavailable

PA050222Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0103 GMT 5 Sep 78 PA

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Excerpts] Managua, 4 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The arrests of important opposition leaders, newspaper charges of homes being raided and increased military patrolling of the capital this evening marked the close of the 11th day of the general strike in Nicaragua. Although the effects of the strike called by the Broad Opposition Front were visible, activities did not halt completely and not all businesses and industries were closed.

There is practically no authorized opposition spokesman or leader available to report on polls or other counts to measure the extent of the strike, but it was obvious that the strike movement had more supporters in the departments than in the capital. Information on the strike, however, was particularly sparse today because a hefty percentage of the opposition leaders were in hiding to avoid being taken to jail.

In the capital the popular markets were open, but there were fewer shoppers than usual. There were also fewer customers than usual at the banks that have not yet joined the general strike. Perhaps because of this, dozens of employees of the Bank of Nicaragua financial complex in Managua took over the main building in the complex, preventing further service to the public.

GRANMA COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NICARAGUA

PA040209Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Sep 78 FL

[Our America commentary]

[Text] A recent commentary in the Cuban newspaper GRANMA announces that U.S. imperialism is desperately trying to find among the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie an alternative to Somoza's rule, which is no longer capable of staying in power despite the massacres being conducted against the people of that Central American nation and the widespread support that it has always received from Washington. The U.S. Government's current policy, the Cuban newspaper says, is aimed at trying to keep Somoza in power until 1981 or supporting his ouster just as long as it can insure a solution which will not jeopardize imperialist domination of Nicaragua.

The PCC official organ recalls that last January's strike called by the business sector opposing Somozism showed the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie's inability to replace the tyranny. It also demonstrated the lack of a figure within that class capable of heading a new reformist-style regime. That strike, the newspaper adds, was indicative of the power of the masses, the leadership role of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the working class, which marked the general strike at the beginning of the year with a tone of popular rebellion. By the same token, the Cuban newspaper comments, the Sandinist front, with more than 15 years of revolutionary work, without a shadow of a doubt represents the will of the Nicaraguan people and their determination to rid themselves of tyranny and advance toward a popular democratic form of government. Sandinism, GRANMA emphasizes, is the watchword of large segments of the Nicaraguan population.

The Cuban paper also says that in the Nicaraguan political panorama the so-called Group of 12 also plays a prominent role. It is made up of several figures who, even though they come from bourgeois groups, remain fully identified with the legitimate desires of the masses of that country.

Elsewhere in the lengthy article on Nicaragua, GRANMA echoes news reports which appeared in the international press on the danger of U.S. military intervention in that Central American country similar to the one that took place in the Dominican Republic in 1965. In this sense, the official organ of the PCC says that today's Nicaragua is not yesterday's Santo Domingo; today Latin America is not the Latin America of 13 years ago, and the correlation of forces in the world is not the same as that which existed when the OAS, the colonial ministry of the United States, sponsored the criminal aggression by Yankee marines against Maximo Gomez' homeland.

In spite of criminal repression by the Somoza tyranny, which has intensified recently, the heroic Nicaraguan people, with more experience, organization, unity, firmness and determination to achieve their definitive liberation, are continuing their valiant and sustained struggle with the solidarity of all governments, peoples and figures of the world who love democracy, peace and progress. Today's Nicaragua, GRANMA notes in conclusion, is demonstrating that it has a people who, as the immortal Augusto Cesar Sandino said, do not sell out or surrender.

COLONIAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO SCORED

FL020105Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Sep 78 FL

[Jose Bodes Gomez commentary]

[Text] The case of Puerto Rico was widely discussed this week at the UN special committee on decolonization.

Before the sessions began at the United Nations, President James Carter announced his backing of annexationist plans intended to convert the Puerto Rican island into the 51st state of the North American union.

The incumbent governor of Puerto Rico, Carlos Romero Barcelo, plans to implement the annexation through a plebiscite which reportedly will be held after 1980. This same governor is the one who this week admitted at the United Nations that colonial vestiges exist in the relations between Puerto Rico and the United States.

And all of this is taking place 25 years after the establishment of that juridical creation called the associated free state, through which the U.S. Government thought it could hide the true colonial status in which it has maintained the Puerto Rican people. The results are obvious. Not even North American rulers themselves or their most unconditional followers are satisfied and they already are about to recognize--as Puerto Rican patriots have said from the start--that with that status Puerto Rico is neither a state, nor free, nor associated. However, this status has helped North American companies to plunder the island's resources through a selling-out policy initiated in the 1950's by then Governor Luis Munoz Marin. This policy has been maintained to date by the officials who have followed him in that dishonorable position of administering the country's resources for the benefit of another state. The legislation, if one could call it that, places no limits on foreign capital investments. This allows many of the companies located in Puerto Rico to consist of 100 percent Yankee capital. Moreover, these companies have absolute freedom to take all their profits out of the island. And, as if this were not enough, one-half of the profits are not taxed at all.

This is why North American capital invested in the island amounts to more than $1.3 billion and, with that sum of money, they control 80 percent of industry and commerce and 60 percent of banking operations. Meanwhile, the island's agriculture is semi-abandoned and those who work in agriculture no longer find jobs. That is why they have had to join the ranks of economic emigrees who try to find a better fate in the territory of the imperialist metropolis. However, for many of them--the immense majority--their situation has not improved. According to official U.S. statistics, nearly 2 million persons have arrived from Puerto Rico in the past 25 years but a third of these families are classified as being in the most abject poverty due to their living conditions.

The median income of a Puerto Rican family is hardly more than half of the average income of a North American family. Two-thirds of North American adults have a high school education but less than a third of the Puerto Ricans have been able to reach this educational level.

Some time ago, the then governor of Puerto Rico tried to escape the colonial mold of the island and asked the Department of State for permission to participate as an observer at the UN Conference on Law of the Sea. The reply that came from Washington was definitive: The U.S. Government represents Puerto Rico at all international forums.

At the UN decolonization committee our country currently is co-sponsor of a draft resolution which reaffirms Puerto Rico's inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The draft resolution also requests the unconditional release of the four Puerto Rican patriots who have been imprisoned in the United States for more than 24 years.

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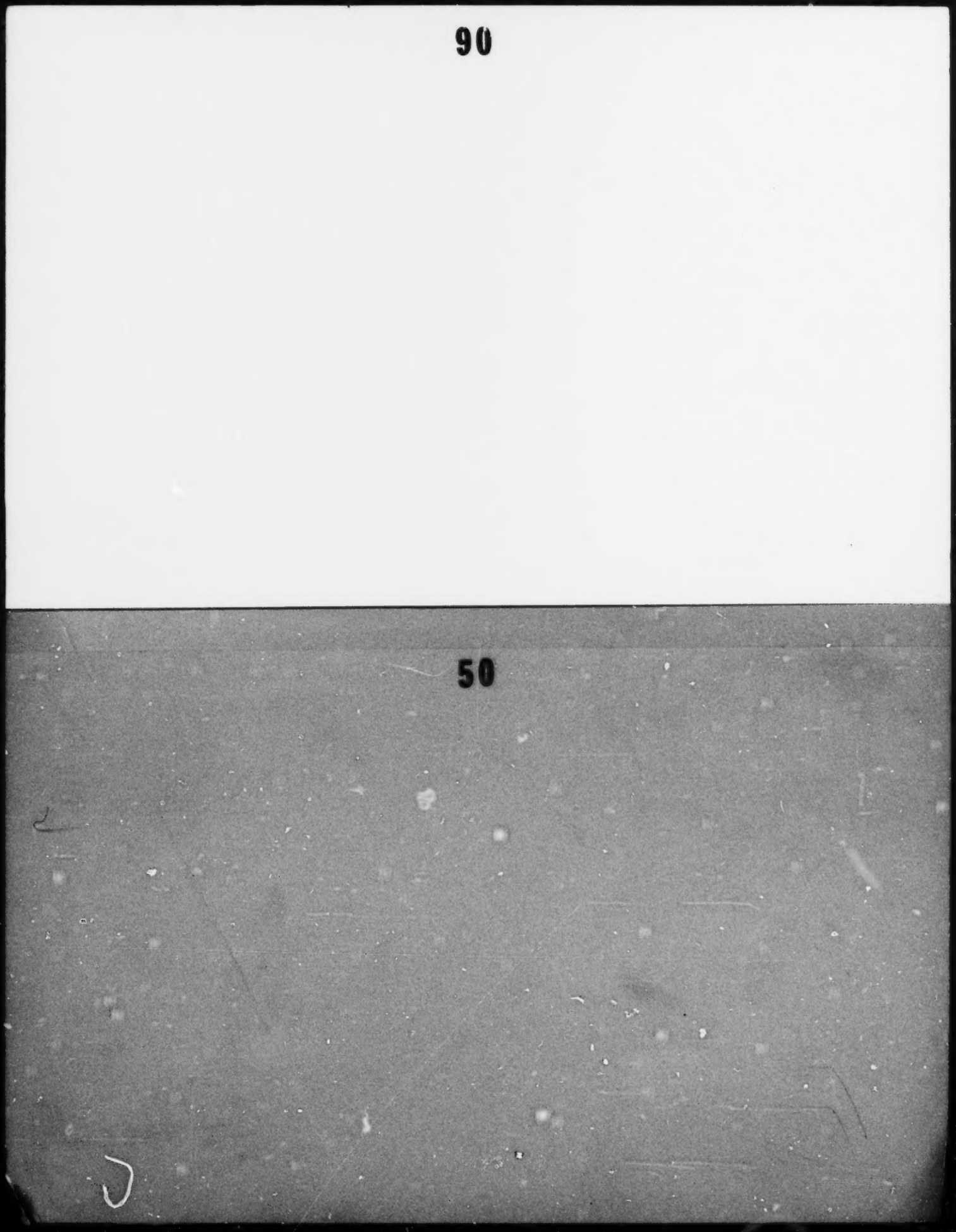
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